Achievements of the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation for Defence Purposes

556. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what activities are being undertaken by the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation in the areas of micro-slectronics and opto-electironic and opta-mechanical systems for special defence applications;

(h) io what extent these developments would contribute for self-sufficiency in our defence requirement; and

(c) what are the future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Central Scientific Instruments Organisation, inter-alia, has developed for defence: Head-up display (HUD) for Light Combat Aircraft, 35 mm Mini Pan Camera for Remotely Piloted Vehicle (RPV) and Projection Units of Plotting Tables for KAMORTA Class Ships.

(b) These developments will lead to self-sufficiency for these items to meet defence requirements.

(c) The programme for defence application include development of Charged Coupled Devices (CCD)-Based Cameras and HUDs for other defence aircrafts.

Safety Upgradation of Nuciear Power Plants

557. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Win the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of nuclear power plants in the country are unsafe and accident-prone needing safety upgradation;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to upgrade the plant safely to avoid any mishap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The nuclear power plants in operation in the couniry are not unsafe. We have also had a good record of safety.

(c) Safety upgradation is being taken up in the older plants to counter the effects of ageing am' to meet the revised standards of safety due to advances in technology. The performance of ali safer-related components and systems of these. inslailations is under continuous review and monitoiing. Areas of possible upgradation of safety have been identified by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) and an action plan is being evolved with a .schedule of implemcntation having rigard to the urgency and importance of each issue Comprehensive inscrvice inspection and necessary modifications wherever required have been carried out in the plants in the past and are continued to ensure overall safety.

Risk of Earthquaks to BARC

558. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the PRIML-MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allention has been drawn to a report entuled BARK" faces fresh risk of earthquake, published in the Indian Express, New Delhi, dated the 29th March, 1996:

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Trombay site of Bhabha Atomic